

Santa Barbara VA on July 1, 1982. In 1995, as the youngest primary care physician on staff, Dr. Gaines was promoted to Chief Medical Officer by the VA Greater Los Angeles System, and remained the clinic's leader and advocate for twenty-three years.

During his decades with the VA, Dr. Gaines has remained unsinkable, despite relentless and conflicting demands, perpetual resource shortages, and high leader turnover within the Los Angeles VA system, and the VA Central Office.

Despite the persistent challenges of his career, in the last decade Dr. Gaines became a volunteer with the Doctors without Walls and provided weekly "street medicine" to the homeless in our community. He also volunteered to be trained for the Federal Employee Response Team, serving victims of disasters in our country. In 2005, along with his VA team, the Santa Barbara Independent honored Dr. Gaines as a "Local Hero".

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with the VA Santa Barbara and the VA Greater Los Angeles in celebrating the exemplary thirty-six-year career of Dr. Robert Gaines as he retires. His leadership and commitment to our Veterans has been both exceptional and unprecedented.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had an urgent family commitment that caused me to miss my normal flight, and therefore evening votes. I, like the rest of this body, am fully committed to fighting the opioid epidemic. Had I been able to vote, I would have joined my colleagues in supporting the opioid combatting legislation that passed the House yesterday.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019 and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chair, I will vote against H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, because the process failed to live up to the Majority's promise of regular order, didn't invest in Americans back home, and included controversial policy riders that have no place in appropriations bills. Rather than investing in Americans by fully funding critical domestic programs, this bill overspends on wasteful programs under the guise of national security. Further, it included controversial policy riders, which

should be considered under their own merit—not hidden in a spending bill.

I am particularly concerned about the additional money in the bill that is allocated for new weapons systems that may actually threaten our national security. In particular, the bill included new funding for nuclear weapons activities at the expense of critical defense nonproliferation accounts, while offering little evidence as to how new nuclear weapons could be used to improve national security.

Despite voting against the bill, I am happy to see over \$52 million provided to the VA to implement the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act. The funding will assist in increasing programs to help medical professionals and patients understand the risks associated with pain medication and examine alternative treatments. I am also encouraged that the bill included over \$196 million for veteran suicide prevention, \$5.6 billion for homeless veterans' treatment costs, and \$270 million for rural health initiatives. These efforts will help address the opioid epidemic and give veterans and their families the tools they need and the accountability they deserve.

I understand how important it is to provide ample support for our military, which is why I recently voted in favor the National Defense Authorization Act. Supporting the brave men and women who defend this nation is of paramount importance; however, we should not be inserting partisan riders into our spending bills. I will continue to work with my colleagues to support our military and pursue fiscally responsible policies that invest in Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ANAHEIM UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the notable contributions and meaningful progress made by the Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) to protect its 30,000 students by taking unprecedented actions to implement school safety measures, including the installation of a pioneering digital mapping system at my alma mater, Anaheim High School.

This technology can potentially save the lives of teachers, students and first responders, especially critical in a time when hundreds of students have been victims of gun violence in more than 200 school shootings. In 2018 alone, there have been 20 incidents in which someone was injured with a firearm on the campus of an U.S. school.

More than 214,000 students have experienced gun violence at 216 schools since Columbine. The Washington Post found that at least 141 children, educators and other individuals have been killed in assaults, and another 284 have been injured.

Anaheim High is the first school in the nation to be digitally mapped using technology developed by former law enforcement officer, David Sobel, whose wife and mother are both public school teachers.

This new technology will provide up-to-date floor plans, aerial maps and site plans virtually to responders within minutes of an emergency.

Through the use of 15,000, 360-degree high resolution photos, the digital map will provide first responders with important details such as potential hiding places, what furniture or other materials could be used as a barricade, and even what kinds of locks and hinges are on the doors.

What's more, the AUHSD is actively embracing its philosophy that "school safety means physical, intellectual and emotional safety" by enacting mental health initiatives to create positive school climates that promote kindness and compassion.

A dedicated team of social workers provide intensive mental health and crisis intervention services and they work with numerous community partners to raise awareness about adverse childhood experiences (or trauma), and to identify mental health issues at early stages and develop coping skills.

In addition, the AUHSD is to be commended for its establishment of Southern California's first high school Cybersecurity Pathway through collaborations with the business and education community.

Also notable is the District's creation of an Offensive Security Society and the formation of high school chapters to teach students how to ethically and proactively discover weaknesses in technology systems and to make corrections before the weaknesses elevate to crisis level.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Anaheim Union High School District for its leadership in addressing the critical issue of how to keep our students safe through a multi-faceted approach that employs pioneering technology and lessons in kindness and compassion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes on 6/12/2018.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 258; YEA on Roll Call No. 259; and YEA on Roll Call No. 260.

REMEMBERING MR. RALPH RODRIGUEZ, JR.

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a great American hero, Mr. Ralph Rodriguez, Jr., who passed away this month at the age of 100. Mr. Rodriguez bravely served our country in World War II and survived years of inhumane treatment as a prisoner of war.

Born to Mexican immigrants, Mr. Rodriguez was sent to train in the Philippines prior the United States' entrance into the war, but was ambushed by Japanese forces on December 8, 1941, just hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor. After months of intense fighting, Mr. Rodriguez and his fellow servicemen were ordered to surrender. They were then forced to

walk more than 60 miles to Camp O'Donnell in what became known as the Bataan Death March.

For almost three years, despite facing malnutrition, torture, and forced labor, Mr. Rodriguez did his best to provide medical care to his fellow soldiers without the use of proper supplies. He also kept handwritten records of his fellow prisoners, many of whom succumbed to a range of ailments. He was finally liberated and returned to New Mexico in January 1945.

After returning home, Mr. Rodriguez worked for a variety of lumber businesses in the Albuquerque area. Additionally, he served in leadership roles at the Bataan Veterans Organization and the American Ex-Prisoners of War Organization. He also met his wife, Elizabeth, and had three children, Mona Lisa, Ralph III, and Charles.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to the loved ones of Mr. Ralph Rodriguez, Jr., and honor Mr. Rodriguez for his valiant service to our country.

RECOGNIZING RUDY GRASSESCHI

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rudy Grasseschi, who is celebrating 60 years in business as the owner and operator of the Cobblers shoe store and repair shop in Hayward, California.

Rudy opened Cobblers on June 13, 1958, but the store traces its roots much further back. Rudy's father, who arrived in the Bay Area in 1906 from Italy, sold and fixed shoes elsewhere in Hayward, as Rudy's grandfather had done in Italy. Today, Rudy's sons Dino and Rodney work with him in the store, as does his grandson Kenneth.

For generations of Bay Area residents, Cobblers has been a comforting throwback to the old-world tradition of mixing craftsmanship and fellowship, with Rudy working his restorative magic on all sorts of footwear while dispensing free wisdom and kindness to all who pass through his door.

A Hayward native who lives in nearby Castro Valley with his wife of 61 years, Lois, Rudy has tirelessly given back to his community—he is a director emeritus of the Hayward Area Recreation District Foundation's board, and a lifetime member of the Castro Valley Lions Breakfast Club. Cobblers was honored as the California 20th Assembly District's 2018 Small Business of the Year, and is among the Hayward Chamber of Commerce's oldest members.

At age 82, Rudy says he has no plans to retire. Like a well-made, well-worn, still-sturdy shoe, he remains the right fit for the East Bay.

I rise to congratulate Rudy Grasseschi on achieving six decades as the owner of one of the 15th Congressional District's quintessential businesses, a beloved community institution that continues to serve its customers with the highest degree of quality and care.

IN HONOR OF THE FATHERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of The Fathers of the Armed Forces, on this coming Fathers Day and their families. Who throughout the generations have selflessly sacrificed for us in the name of freedom. Take time to pause and reflect and give thanks. I ask this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell be included in the RECORD.

THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

The Faith of our Fathers,
The Fathers of Freedom,
The Fathers of War,
The men who go off to battle and leave all they adore.
Who throughout the generations, for all of us, fought and died
For our freedom, giving up their arms and legs and so much more
And come home and live with PTS, The Scars of War,
All so we can live in this Nation we adore.
And then there are the ones who aren't coming home anymore.
Who lie in cold quiet graves lost in distant shores,
Who gave That Last Full Measure.
This Father's Day remember all of those who represent America's greatest of treasures,
Our selfless Fathers of Freedom, The Angels adore,
Who with The Faith of Our Fathers fought and died for.
So this Fathers Day, as you sit down to break bread,
With your beloved Father and all that will be said,
Remember there are Fathers all around the world who for us have led,
And died and bled.
Who have wives and precious boys and girls in harms way in sleepless beds,
Who won't be together this day,
As it's The Faith of Our Fathers who lead the way,
On this Fathers Day.
So give thanks and give praise,
And say a prayer for all of those families in anguish who live day to day,
And remember over decades what The Faith of Our Fathers have made
In this Land of The of Free,
in this Home of The Brave,
And what they give and what they gave,
And The Magnificent Faith of Our Fathers on this Fathers Day,
Who pray for peace everyday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 258 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 5237. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 259 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 5041. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 260 on Approval of the Journal. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

GARY REYNOLDS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor one of my constituents, Gary Reynolds, a Physics Teacher from the City of Santa Ana.

Mr. Reynolds has been an important figure in the community, not only as a teacher, but also as a mentor to his students at Santa Ana High School for over 31 years. His love for the Sciences and desire to educate the city's youth, Mr. Reynolds has been able to create a career through his teachings in Physics, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Robotics.

After graduating from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1969, Mr. Reynolds became an Infantry Officer at Marine Corps Recruiting from 1969 to 1976. During his time in the Marine Corps, he also served in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971.

Mr. Reynolds is a former Postdoctoral Research Assistant from Louisiana State University and a Research Assistant from University of California, Irvine. Mr. Reynolds received his PhD in Environmental Chemistry at University of California, Irvine, and has studied Cell Physiology and Biochemistry at San Diego State University, and Zoology and Chemistry at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Mr. Reynolds' is dedicated to educating the city's students and has acted as a mentor to all those who may not have had someone who they can look up to. Through the years, he has acted as a mentor and has motivated students to be the best that they could be. Because of his guidance, many of his students have gone on to pursue a higher education.

Mr. Reynolds' tremendous efforts are not left unnoticed and his accolades are well-deserved. More importantly, it is the impact he has made in our community. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Reynolds, and I thank him for his positive impact he has made on the Santa Ana community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, due to my attendance at a funeral, I was not present to vote on roll call votes 258 and 259 on June 12th. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 258, and YEA on Roll Call No. 259.